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MoIC holds 'Kitab-e-Kabul' Festival to promote reading culture

KABUL: The Ministry of Information and Culture, through its Directorate of Public Libraries, organized a festival titled 'Kitab-e-Kabul' to raise public awareness about the importance of books and promote a culture of reading across the country, according to a statement from the ministry on Monday.

The festival was attended by Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, Mawlavi Atiqullah Azizi, the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Arts and Culture, representatives of international organizations, diplomats from various embassies in Kabul, university professors, writers, and cultural figures, the statement said.

Speaking at the event, Azizi emphasized the vital role of books in intellectual and cultural development, stating that the ministry not only considers books as cultural treasures but also as essential tools for shaping a brighter intellectual and societal future.

He added that the ministry is working toward a modern, systematic, and sustainable plan for the production, editing, publication, translation, and preservation of books.

Meanwhile, Farahi reaffirmed the ministry's role as a strong supporter of books, announcing that, under the directive of the Supreme Leader, books printed inside the country are now fully exempt from taxation, while a 50% tax reduction has been applied to books imported from abroad.

He called on families, scholars, and local authors to help encourage young people to read and to write books that meet the needs of the country's youths.

Meanwhile, Roza Otunbayeva, Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), spoke about the value of organizing such a festival.

She said the book festival is among the national values and symbolizes national identity, and investing in books is a permanent and sustainable investment.

Otunbayeva also emphasized the promotion of a reading culture in society and pledged that all UN regional offices are ready to fully cooperate with Afghanistan in this regard.

The Kabul Times

Commission discusses Leader's decree on tax exemption for locally published books

KABUL: The regular meeting of the Book Evaluation Commission was held with the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for the Publications Affairs, Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, on the chair, discussing the implementation of the Supreme Leader's decree on tax exemption for books printed within the country, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

At the beginning, the commission's secretary shared a report regarding the previous commission's meeting with the participants, the statement said.

According to the statement, assigning spaces for publishers, coordination with printing presses and publishing houses have also been discussed in the meeting.

Also, a number of books that have been presented to the commission for assessment were distributed to the commission's members, and they were instructed to evaluate and share their findings in the next meeting, the statement said.

The Book Evaluation Commission is held weekly to assess different books and grant publication approval to those books that have been written under Islamic and Afghan values, as well as the policies of the Islamic Emirate.

The Kabul Times

Economy Minister urges NGOs to boost support for returning Afghan migrants

KABUL: Qari Deen Mohammad Hanif, the acting Minister of Economy and Head of the Committee for Attracting Assistance for Returnees, has called on domestic and international NGOs to step up cooperation in addressing the urgent needs of returning Afghan migrants.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives from various NGOs, Hanif emphasized the importance of going beyond immediate relief and contributing to long-term solutions to address returnees' challenges, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

He urged organizations to actively participate in constructing shelters in residential townships, establishing water supply systems, digging wells, and building schools, madrasas, mosques, and health clinics for returnees.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the NGOs reaffirmed their commitment to continued collaboration and support for returnees.

The Islamic Emirate, in coordination with aid agencies, is working to provide both immediate assistance and permanent housing for vulnerable families.

The Kabul Times

Justice Minister meets Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, emphasizes stronger Islamic ties

KABUL: Shaikh Abdul Hakim Sharai, acting Minister of Justice of the Islamic Emirate, met with Nanda Avalist, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Kabul, to discuss strengthening bilateral relations, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on enhancing cooperation, particularly in the areas of lawmaking and legal reforms, the statement said.

The Justice Minister noted that Afghanistan and Indonesia share deep-rooted Islamic values, and the collaboration between Islamic nations should be strong enough to reflect unity as one body.

He highlighted that dozens of legal frameworks have been derived from reliable Islamic jurisprudence, stressing that the foundation of all Afghan laws is based on the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Meanwhile, Nanda Avalist expressed Indonesia's readiness to expand cooperation with the Islamic Emirate, emphasizing that during his diplomatic tenure in Kabul, he will strive to further develop bilateral relations in various sectors.

The Kabul Times

Paktika-Zurmat road to be constructed

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Works of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement on Monday that the construction work on the Paktika-Zurmat road has been initiated.

According to the statement, the 38.7-kilometre road will link Sharan, the provincial capital of Paktika, to Zurmat district in neighboring Paktia province.

Upon completion, the road is expected to significantly boost the transport of commercial goods and agricultural products between Paktika and Paktia provinces, while easing travel difficulties for local residents.

The project will also generate both direct and indirect employment opportunities for locals during its implementation phase. **The Kabul Times**

1,600 foreign tourists visited Nangarhar last year

KABUL: The Information and Culture Department of Nangarhar said in a statement the other day that 1,600 foreign tourists visited the province over the past year.

Eid Mohammad Hanafi, the Tourism Officer of the provincial Information and Culture, said that 1,600 foreign tourists from different countries have visited the province, where twelve of them have been converted to Islam, including four women and eight men.

After the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, Afghanistan's tourism industry has experienced a notable resurgence, the statement added.

The relevant officials stated that considerable efforts have been made to develop this important sector by providing essential facilities, improving infrastructure, and ensuring greater convenience and safety for both domestic and foreign tourists.

The Kabul Times

18,000 carats of Panjshir emeralds sold this year

KABUL: The country's Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said in a statement Monday that since the beginning of this solar year, 18,000 carats of Panjshir emeralds worth $1.1 million have been sold through five rounds of bidding.

In addition to the sale of emeralds, dozens of emerald mine sites have been discovered in the Pariyan district of the province, the statement said, adding that the technical teams will soon be dispatched to conduct detailed surveys of these areas.

According to the statement, 600 official mining licenses have so far been issued for emerald mining, and more than 15,000 people have been provided with job opportunities in this field. **The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Strengthening of national unity common responsibility

No one can turn a blind eye to the efforts of the people and the impact and value of media in the strengthening of national unity.

In the contemporary world, discussion about the role of media in cooperation and coordination with the people, with the help of the government, in strengthening national unity is making headlines in the press around the world.

So, it can be noted that if there is someone who does not accept this reality, this means that one has not realized the truth and lives in negligence.

With this case in mind, we will discuss the current situation of the press in our country and draw the attention of the government and the media to the fact that today, independent states, domestic and international media are all active under sure security in the country, evaluating the existing conditions and interactions. Some media have also expressed complaints that there is no doubt that the existence of free media is an urgent need, and the state media will also be also be important. However, in order to avoid tension in the normal situation and to protect the interests of the country, it is necessary that the government, the media, the mass in cooperation with the government should fulfill their responsibilities properly and the media should not take measures to broadcast demands that conflict with the principles of journalism and the highest interests of the country.

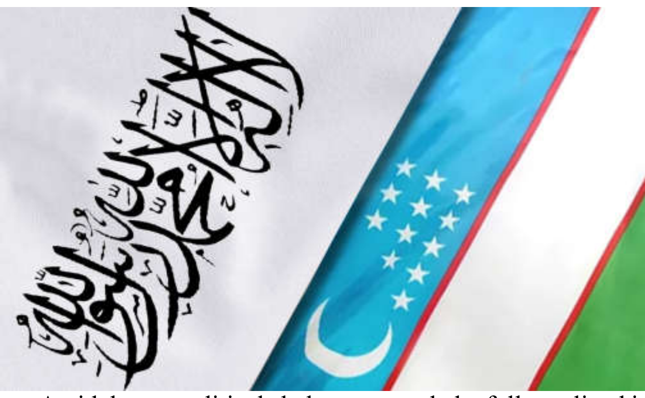
Nevertheless, the responsibility of the government is heavier. It must fulfil its responsibility and work for national unity, while the media have to transparently cover and broadcast its values and propagate for its benefits countrywide as well as at the international level.

A specific, effective and stable method should be developed by the country's media and the people with the full support of the Islamic Emirate to institutionalize the national unity and spread a single umbrella of patriotism and brotherhood at the national level.

So, we, the government, the people, and the media, are obliged to do our best to restore national unity as we have long struggled to bring peace and security to the country.

The responsibility and obligation of the media are also very heavy while covering the facts and realities. They shouldn't violate the real media standards and journalism ethics. They should coordinate any of their duties with the related organs and avoid broadcasting issues contrary to the national interests and national unity.

Unlocking regional stability: Uzbekistan's strategic support for Afghanistan's role in global economy



Amid the geopolitical challenges and transformations shaping Central and South Asia, one reality becomes increasingly evident: stability in Afghanistan is not only a pressing domestic need but also essential for the security, prosperity, and sustainable development of the entire region.

Uzbekistan, as a pivotal actor in Central Asia, has repeatedly underscored its commitment to supporting Afghanistan's development through a framework centered on cooperation, convergence, and mutual benefit—a commitment reflected in recent high-level diplomatic engagements, such as the meeting between Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov and the Afghan Ambassador in Tashkent.

This meeting symbolized Tashkent's proactive and forward-looking diplomacy. Saidov emphasized the critical importance of integrating Afghanistan into regional and global supply chains—not merely as a gesture of humanitarian concern or diplomatic goodwill but as a strategic imperative grounded in a deep understanding of regional economic realities. Afghanistan's geographic position at the heart of Asia provides it with tremendous potential to act as a vital bridge linking the economies of Central and South Asia. However, this potential can only be fully realized in an environment characterized by political stability and economic integration.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has charted a significant shift in its foreign policy—one that prioritizes economic diplomacy, development of regional transit infrastructure, and the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral relations with neighboring countries. This strategic pivot has not only expanded economic opportunities for Uzbekistan itself but also established a positive model of regional cooperation that balances national interests with broader regional goals.

A cornerstone of this approach has been Uzbekistan's robust engagement with Afghanistan. Rather than viewing Afghanistan's instability as a risk, Tashkent treats engagement with Kabul as a strategic investment in regional stability and prosperity. Uzbekistan's participation in transformative infrastructure projects, such as the Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif railway and Central Asian trade corridors, exemplifies this commitment. These projects have been designed to facilitate smoother trade flows, enhance connectivity, and create economic linkages that benefit both countries and the wider region.

Historically, Afghanistan served as a key transit hub, connecting trade routes between South and Central Asia, and further to Europe and the Middle East. Unfortunately, decades of conflict and instability have marginalized the country economically and severed many of these historic trade linkages. However, a gradual shift in regional attitudes signals a renewed recognition of Afghanistan's role as a regional connector.

Uzbekistan's geo-economic vision for the region hinges on reintegrating Afghanistan into international transit and trade networks. Through diplomatic engagement and targeted economic investments, Tashkent aims to restore Afghanistan's position on the regional economic map. Initiatives to develop transit corridors linking Afghanistan to Central Asian ports, collaborations in energy supply chains, and efforts to strengthen regional supply chains collectively aim to transform Afghanistan from a peripheral player to a central partner in regional economic cooperation.

Afghanistan's path to economic integration, however, is not without significant challenges. International sanctions, banking system restrictions, legal uncertainties for foreign investors, and ongoing political instability pose formidable barriers. These obstacles cannot be tackled by Afghanistan alone; they require coordinated multilateral cooperation and regional leadership.

Here, Uzbekistan's role becomes even more vital. As a country that has successfully navigated its transition towards economic openness and regional integration, Uzbekistan is well-positioned to lead efforts that encourage other nations to join in Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic revitalization. By advocating for policies that ease sanctions, improve banking relations, and promote investor confidence, Tashkent can help open new economic horizons not only for Afghanistan but for the entire Central and South Asian region.

For Afghanistan to attract sustainable investment and fully participate in regional economic integration, Afghan authorities must prioritize transparency, legal stability, and protection of investor rights. Building genuine trust with international partners and adhering to global trade and investment standards are prerequisites for long-term success.

Uzbekistan's experience in reforming its regulatory environment and improving its business climate provides a valuable model for Afghanistan. Through technical assistance and knowledge exchange, Uzbekistan can support Afghanistan in adopting best practices that enhance governance, combat corruption, and create a secure environment for both domestic and foreign investors.

Afghanistan and Uzbekistan share more than a border; they stand at the cusp of defining a new strategic partnership. This partnership, rooted in economic diplomacy, mutual trust, and shared interests, holds the promise of transforming Afghanistan into a reliable and integral partner in the region.

Such a relationship can facilitate not only trade and investment but also contribute to sustainable development, social stability, and geopolitical balance in Central Asia. By supporting Afghanistan's integration into the global economy, Uzbekistan is helping lay the groundwork for peace and prosperity that transcends borders.

Uzbekistan's supportive policies toward Afghanistan's development are not merely acts of goodwill—they are grounded in pragmatic geopolitical reasoning. The future stability and growth of Central and South Asia depend on integrating countries that have long been sidelined in global economic trends.

Uzbekistan's investments in infrastructure, transit, energy, and trade connectivity demonstrate a commitment to this vision. Projects such as the development of the Termez border crossing, joint ventures in energy supply, and the expansion of transport corridors illustrate the practical steps Uzbekistan is taking to realize a stable and interconnected region.

As Uzbekistan advances its path of cooperation and regional integration, Afghanistan and other neighboring countries must seize this historic opportunity. By embracing collaboration, strengthening institutions, and fostering inclusive economic growth, the region can unlock its vast potential.

The integration of Afghanistan into regional and global economic systems will not only promote peace and stability but also create new avenues for prosperity across Central and South Asia. Tashkent's leadership in this process is a beacon of hope, signaling that with vision, cooperation, and commitment, the region can overcome its challenges and build a brighter future for all.

Abdul Hai Nasiri

Water crisis in Kajaki forces mass migration as canal construction stalls

Water is considered the foundation of life—essential not only for human survival but also for sustaining agriculture and livestock.

In Afghanistan, in recent years, climate change, reduced rainfall, and irresponsible water consumption have caused water levels to drop, putting many regions of the country at risk of drought.

Helmand province is one of the areas heavily reliant on water.

The Kajaki Hydropower Dam there is a crucial water source. However, due to the lack of fair distribution, absence of irrigation canals, and inadequate infrastructure, several districts in the province are grappling with severe water-related issues.

According to the Helmand Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock, nearly 80% of the population in the province is engaged in farming and livestock, depending on it to meet their families' needs.

The digging of numerous deep wells and boreholes in the province has led to a steady decline in groundwater levels, worsening drought conditions across different areas.

Residents of Kajaki district say their lives are under threat due to ongoing drought and the lack of agricultural water. They warn that if the government does not take immediate steps to build canals, many villages in the district will become depopulated as residents are forced to migrate elsewhere in search of water.

Abdul Samad, a resident of Kajaki, calls on the government to pay attention to the dire situation in their district.

"Our area has 350 karezes (traditional water tunnels), most of which have either dried up or yield very little water. If a canal is not constructed, we'll have no choice but to abandon our lands.

What can people do in a barren desert without water? We urge the government to resolve the water shortage in our district."

Other residents of Helmand also express concern over worsening drought, stating that many orchards in the region have already dried up.

Qudratullah, another resident, fears that if the situation continues, Helmand's agricultural sector could completely collapse.

"As you can see, all the orchards here are dried up, and farming is paralyzed. Yet no one is stepping up to build a canal from the Kajaki Dam for us. Even though the plan already exists, we ask the government to control the flow of water and implement more water-related projects. Otherwise, in the coming years, you will hear that people have migrated due to lack of water."

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for Helmand's governor, Mawlavi Mohammad Qasim Riaz, stated that the canal proposal for Zamin Dawar area in Kajaki district has been sent to the Ministry of Water and Energy, and there is hope that the project will be launched once resources are secured.

"The canal project for Zamin Dawar in Kajaki district has been shared with the Ministry of Water and Energy. Some time ago, the Minister of Water and Energy visited Helmand. Once resources are available, the canal construction will begin."

This comes at a time when residents of Kajaki are pleading for canal construction, while local officials confirm that due to the ongoing drought, over 2,000 families from four northern districts of Helmand have already migrated—some to Lashkargah city, others to different provinces.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Continued commitment to providing necessary services to returnees

As mass deportation process of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan is underway with thousands of families returning home on daily basis, the Islamic Emirate has renewed its commitment to providing necessary services to returnees in the country. Three million Afghans could return to their country this year, a UN refugee official said Friday, warning that the repatriation flow is placing intense pressure on an already major humanitarian crisis.

Iran and Pakistan have introduced new policies affecting displaced Afghans, with Tehran already having given four million illegal Afghans until July 6 to leave Iranian territory.

"What we are seeing is the undignified, disorganized and massive exodus of Afghans from both countries, which is generating enormous pressures on the homeland that is willing to receive them and yet utterly unprepared to do so," the UNHCR representative in Afghanistan, Arafat Jamal, said during a video press conference in Kabul.

With acceleration of the deportation process of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan, the Islamic Emirate has announced Launch of 35 townships across 25 provinces in the country. In an interview with Bakhtar News Agency, Mawlavi Hamdullah Fetrat, Deputy Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, announced the start of construction of 35 townships for housing returning migrants across the country.

"The townships are planned to be built on a total area of over 120,000 acre of land in 25 provinces of the country," Fetrat said, adding that the goal of this program is to provide basic living conditions for migrants who have returned to the country after years of displacement. According to Fitrat, a budget of 1.5 billion AFG has been allocated for implementing this program and other related services for migrants, which will be funded from the government's internal resources.

Meanwhile, infrastructure projects, including construction of hangars, shelters, and rest stops, for the temporary welfare of migrants at Islam Qala border are underway.

The total cost of the projects 16 million AFG funded also from the government's internal resources. On the other hand, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has announced that children of Afghan refugees returning from Iran and Pakistan will be enrolled in educational institutions across the country.

In a statement, the country's ministry of education said these children were being admitted to all government schools, Darul Ulooms, religious seminaries, and other public and private educational institutions, ensuring they could continue their education without interruption. The ministry emphasized its full commitment to providing education for the children of returning migrants and affirmed its readiness to take on this responsibility.

This comes as the return process of migrants has intensified in recent weeks, with thousands entering the country daily just through the Islam Qala border. Over 1.6 million Afghans have already returned from Pakistan and Iran this year, the large majority from Iran. The figure already exceeds the UNHCR's initial forecasts of 1.4 million for 2025. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) now estimates three million coming into Afghanistan this year.

The UN agency said over 30,000 people per day have streamed across the Islam Qala border into Afghanistan, with 50,000 crossing on July 4 alone.

Sayed Sharif

Denying Afghan refugees access to assets highlights Iran's breach of refugee rights

Article 13 of the Convention allows refugees to retain and freely manage, use, or transfer their movable and immovable assets.

Over the past few decades, Iran has become one of the primary destinations for Afghan refugees. Millions of Afghan citizens have chosen Iran as a place of refuge due to various factors, including war, insecurity, economic hardship, and social challenges.

Over the years, these refugees have not only contributed significantly as a labor force to Iran's economy but have also left behind considerable financial assets, which are now entangled in legal, economic, and political complications. The central question is whether the Government of Iran, under international legal obligations, is required to guarantee Afghan refugees' access to their personal assets.

According to Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others, and "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property."

This fundamental principle emphasizes the right to private property without discrimination.

Additionally, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)—to which Iran is a signatory—ensures the principle of non-discrimination under Article 26. Based on this, refugees, regardless of nationality, must be treated equally with citizens of the host country in enjoying fundamental rights, including property rights, unless specific legal exceptions exist that are based on public interest.

Furthermore, although Iran is not a formal party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, many of its principles—such as humane treatment and protection from arbitrary detention—are recognized under customary international law.

Article 13 of the Convention allows refugees to retain and freely manage, use, or transfer their movable and immovable assets.

Under contemporary international law, host states are obligated to uphold fundamental human rights for all foreign nationals residing within their territory. Even in extraordinary circumstances such as war, sanctions, or political crises, states cannot arbitrarily disregard individuals' property rights without due legal process and legitimate justification.

According to the interpretation of the UN Human Rights Committee, any restrictions imposed on property rights must be necessary and proportionate to a legitimate public objective.

Therefore, actions such as freezing bank accounts, confiscating assets, or obstructing the transfer of funds belonging to Afghan refugees—if carried out without a court order or genuine security concern—constitute violations of international norms.

At present, many Afghan refugees—both legal and undocumented—face significant challenges in accessing their bank accounts, transferring remittances, reclaiming assets, and managing their properties. Systemic issues within the banking system, the absence of valid residency documents, international sanctions, and sometimes domestic policies have collectively deprived refugees of their fundamental rights to their personal assets.

Reports indicate that some refugees, upon return or deportation, have been unable to take their financial capital or cash assets with them. In many cases, their bank accounts were frozen, or they were not permitted to transfer funds back to Afghanistan.

This situation constitutes not only a human rights challenge but also a clear violation of well-established principles in international law.

As part of its human rights commitments, the Iranian government is obligated to ensure safe, legal, and unrestricted access to personal property for Afghan refugees. This includes facilitating the opening of bank accounts, allowing fund transfers, protecting movable and immovable property, and implementing non-discriminatory policies toward refugees.

Moreover, establishing a legal and financial cooperation framework between Iran and Afghanistan to manage refugees' assets could provide a viable solution. The use of international mechanisms—such as mediation by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the UNHCR, or independent human rights bodies—could help build trust and find a constructive resolution.

In conclusion, the right to access personal property is a fundamental human right recognized in international law. Afghan refugees, who have contributed meaningfully to Iran's economy and culture, deserve fair and respectful treatment.

Denying them access to their assets is not only unjust but also a blatant breach of Iran's international obligations.

As a nation with a rich civilizational and religious heritage, Iran can enhance its international standing by adopting more humane and equitable policies.

Doing so would help restore trust among refugees and allow the country to benefit from their potential in sustainable development. Peaceful coexistence and the protection of property rights are cornerstones of human rights and regional development that must be reinforced in Iran's relationship with the Afghan migrant community.

Abu Ragheb Amani

The role of communication skills in the field of Da'wah

Da'wah (Islamic outreach) is a divine responsibility. It has been a significant part of the lives of prophets, scholars, and reformers. The work of Da'wah is not merely about conveying the truth; it also requires the art of delivering the message, understanding the audience, and using the appropriate method of interaction. Communication— or the skill of speaking— plays a crucial role in Da'wah because the effectiveness of the message depends on the style, timing, tone, and content of speech.

A da'i (caller to Islam) must understand who their audience is. If the audience is a scholar, the language, terminology, and reasoning should be academic. If the audience is a common person, the speech should be simple, clear, and grounded in real-life experiences. If the audience is a youth, then their mental state, intellectual tendencies, and emotional needs should be understood. Speaking in accordance with the level, mindset, and temperament of the audience is an essential skill for a da'i. This skill cannot be acquired by mere study; it requires experience, reflection, and observation.

A da'i should speak in a way that reaches the hearts of the audience. If the tone is gentle and free from harshness and force, the audience will feel close and respected. People are more open to change through kindness. If the da'i is harsh, condescending, or arrogant, people will distance themselves. The life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) teaches us that even with the most stubborn disbelievers, he spoke with wisdom and gentleness.

Communication is not just about speaking; it is also the art of listening attentively, being patient, and understanding the emotions of the audience. When a da'i listens carefully to the concerns of others, it creates the feeling in the listener that "my pain has been understood." This feeling builds an atmosphere of trust. In such an atmosphere, Da'wah becomes effective. If the da'i only speaks and does not value the other side's words, then it is not Da'wah—it's a one-sided lecture. The da'i should ensure that the message content is based on the Qur'an, Sunnah, reason, history, and reality— not on emotions or empty slogans. If a da'i adopts the methods used by the Prophets (peace be upon them) to enter the hearts of people, many hearts will be transformed.

The Prophets opened the doors to human nature, not the doors of conflict, criticism, or coercion. Their method, full of wisdom, changed the lives of nations.

A key principle in the art of communication is that a da'i must have sincerity. If the da'i speaks from ego, desire for fame, or anger, then even if the words seem fine, they will lack impact. Sincerity is the power that can transform someone with just a short phrase.

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SPORTS

Chelsea crowned 2025 FIFA Club World Cup champions after dominant win over PSG

Chelsea FC emerged victorious in the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup final after a commanding 3-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday, July 13, at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, USA. The English club displayed a clinical performance, outclassing their French rivals to lift the prestigious global title.

The match, officiated by renowned Iranian referee Alireza Faghani, saw Chelsea dominate from the opening whistle. With a strong attacking lineup and solid defensive organization, the London-based team secured their win with three unanswered goals, leaving PSG unable to respond.

The trophy presentation ceremony drew high-profile figures, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, who was in attendance during the awards ceremony. His presence added a political note to an already high-profile global sporting event.

This tournament marked the 21st edition of the FIFA Club World Cup and the first to be held under the expanded format featuring 32 teams from around the globe. The 2025 edition was hosted across various U.S. cities, with FIFA aiming to promote international club football in the American market ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Chelsea's triumph not only adds another prestigious trophy to their cabinet but also cements their status as one of the top football clubs in the world.

Their flawless victory over a strong PSG side will be remembered as a statement of their dominance on the international stage.

With the successful conclusion of this expanded edition, FIFA has signaled a new era for the Club World Cup, aiming to elevate the competition's prestige and global reach. Chelsea's win will stand as the highlight of a tournament that brought together elite clubs from every continent.

The Kabul Times

Local Kurash wrestling tournament held in Pul-e-Khumri

A vibrant local wrestling tournament featuring the traditional sport of Kurash was held in Pul-e-Khumri, the capital city of Baghlan province. Organized by the provincial representative office of the Kurash Federation, the event brought together 40 skilled wrestlers from the provinces of Baghlan and Samangan.

The competition aimed to promote and develop the sport of Kurash—a traditional form of wrestling with deep cultural roots in Central Asia. The event provided a platform for local athletes to showcase their talent and compete in a spirit of sportsmanship and cultural pride.

Spectators in Pul-e-Khumri witnessed a series of exciting and physically demanding matches, as athletes from both provinces faced off in various weight categories. The wrestling bouts were marked by skill, agility, and traditional techniques that reflect the essence of Kurash wrestling.

Organizers expressed satisfaction with the turnout and level of competition, emphasizing the importance of such events in nurturing local talent and encouraging youth participation in traditional sports. They noted that this tournament was part of a broader effort to revive indigenous sports and strengthen regional cooperation through athletic engagement.

Participants and fans alike praised the event's organization and called for more regular tournaments in the future. By hosting this competition, Baghlan's Kurash Federation continues to play an active role in preserving cultural heritage and promoting physical fitness among Afghan youth.

The Kabul Times

Summer futsal tournament kicks off in Dykundi

A local futsal tournament titled the Summer Cup has officially begun in the Ashterlay district of Dykundi province. The event is organized by the Dykundi Football Federation's local office in collaboration with the province's Department of Physical Education and Sports.

The tournament features 10 teams from the district and will run for two weeks, offering young athletes a platform to compete, improve their skills, and engage in healthy physical activity during the summer season. The primary objective of the competition is to encourage youth participation in sports and help promote futsal as a growing discipline in the region.

The opening match saw an exciting face-off between Team Shaheen and Team Yaran A. In a close and competitive game, Team Shaheen emerged victorious, defeating their rivals with a final score of 3–2.

Local officials and organizers emphasized the importance of such events in rural areas, especially in providing youth with positive opportunities for recreation and teamwork. They also highlighted that these tournaments help to develop local talent, foster community engagement, and create a spirit of sportsmanship among young players.

The event has drawn significant interest from local residents, with many turning out to support their teams and enjoy the games. As the tournament progresses, it is expected to bring increased energy and unity to the district, while helping to lay the foundation for a stronger local sports culture in Dykundi.

The Kabul Times

EU delays retaliatory tariffs against US amid hopes for trade deal

EU delays retaliatory tariffs against US amid hopes for trade deal

The European Union has delayed retaliatory tariffs on exports from the United States as officials scramble to reach a trade deal with Washington ahead of US President Donald Trump's August 1 deadline.

Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, said on Sunday that the bloc would extend its suspension of countermeasures as it continued negotiations with the Trump administration.

"At the same time, we will continue to prepare for the countermeasures, so we're fully prepared," von der Leyen said during a news conference in Brussels.

"We have always been very clear that we prefer a negotiated solution," she added.

"This remains the case, and we will use the time that we have now until the 1st of August."

The EU's announcement comes after Trump on Saturday unveiled plans to slap a 30 percent tariff on European and Mexican exports from August 1.

The EU in March announced retaliatory tariffs on 26 billion euros ($30bn) of US exports in response to Trump's duties on steel and aluminium.

The bloc paused the measures for 90 days the following month after Trump announced he would delay the implementation of his so-called "reciprocal tariffs".

The EU's pause had been due to expire at midnight on Monday.

EU trade ministers are scheduled to convene in Brussels on Monday to discuss options for responding to Trump's latest tariff threats.

On Sunday, White House Economic Adviser Kevin Hassett said that Trump was not happy with the "sketches of deals" presented by US trade partners so far and that their offers would "need to be better".

"These tariffs are real if the president doesn't get a deal that he thinks is good enough, but, you know, conversations are ongoing, and we'll see where the dust settles," Hassett told ABC News's This Week.

Taken together, EU member countries are the US's largest trading partner.

US-EU trade in goods and services amounted to 1.7 trillion euros ($2 trillion) in 2024, according to EU statistics agency Eurostat.

Aljazeera

From P3

The role of communication...

A word that comes from a sincere heart reaches not only the tongue but the soul.

Communication also includes body language. The da'i's movements, posture, eye contact, facial expressions, and physical demeanor also convey a message. When a da'i stands in front of people, their physical movements, control over the body, strategic eye contact, hand gestures, facial expressions, and even their way of sitting and standing become part of the message. For example, if a da'i avoids eye contact, appears restless, or displays insecurity, arrogance, or irritability through body language, the audience will sense that this person is either insincere or lacks confidence in their words. On the other hand, if the da'i is humble, composed, maintains confident eye contact, speaks with gentleness, and smiles, these non-verbal cues deliver a powerful message: that the da'i is speaking with sincerity and respects their audience. Human beings instinctively sense the difference between sincerity and pretense, and the inner state of the da'i— no matter how hidden— is revealed through the body. That is why in the science of communication, non-verbal messages account for over 90% of the message delivery. The Prophet (peace be upon him), during his speeches, used not only words but also his physical presence; he gave full attention to his audience, turned his body toward them, and used hand gestures to emphasize points.

All this shows that a da'i should not only focus on speech but also consider their presence, behavior, composure, and honest eye contact as part of the message. We must understand that communication derives meaning not just from the tongue, but from the entire personality.

Sometimes in Da'wah, a da'i faces opposition, conflict, or even insult from the audience. These are profound tests of the da'i's character, insight, and the spirit of their mission. In such situations, anger, harsh language, or a defensive stance not only fail to help but may also shut the doors of Da'wah. A da'i must have the highest level of patience and forbearance. The Qur'an commands:

"And be patient over what they say and avoid them with gracious avoidance." (Surat al-Muzzammil: 10)

This verse presents a divine principle of silence, tolerance, and kindness during Da'wah. The Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) life is the perfect example: when the Quraysh threw dirt on him, cursed him, or when the people of Ta'if stoned him, he never cursed them back. Instead, he prayed for them. This gentle behavior not only calmed their anger but also led many of them to Islam later on.

Similarly, the Jew who insulted the Prophet daily, when he became ill, the Prophet went to visit him— and this kind act led to his conversion to Islam. These examples prove that gentle responses in difficult moments are the most effective way to win hearts. A da'i must understand that their goal is not to fight, but to reform hearts— and this can only be achieved through gentleness, sincerity, and good character.

Mastering communication skills requires study, practice, continual improvement, and experience. A da'i must review their approach daily, observe people's reactions, purify their intentions, and seek help from Allah. This skill develops through knowledge, manners, humility, and spiritual growth.

Communication is the foundation of Da'wah. Through it, the message of Islam enters hearts, enlightens minds, and transforms lives. A da'i must learn from the examples of the Prophets and illuminate hearts through their state, words, and actions. Communication is a blessing— and only those who have sincerity, patience, and truthfulness in serving Allah's religion can truly attain it.

Mohammad Qasim Azzam

Russia says Ukrainian drones attacked training center at Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

Ukrainian drones attacked a training center at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant on Sunday evening, the Russian-installed administration of the Russia-held plant in Ukraine said on Monday.

"The enemy used three unmanned aerial vehicles," the administration said on the Telegram messaging app. It added that "no critical" damage was recorded.

Reuters could not independently verify the Russian report. The report comes a day after the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, said that it had heard hundreds of rounds of small arms fire late on Saturday at the plant.

Russian forces seized the Zaporizhzhia plant in the first weeks of Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Each side regularly accuses the other of firing or taking other actions that could trigger a nuclear accident.

The station, Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, is not operating but still requires power to keep its nuclear fuel cool.

The plant's Russia-installed management said in its statement that the station "continues to operate normally, with all necessary safety precautions in place."

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